

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 101444Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

AMEMASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10195

DEPARTMENT PASS AF/E FOR BARRETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, ET

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL AFAR EXPEDITION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 9249

1. UNTIL RECENTLY EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM DR. DON JOHANSON, AMERICAN LEADER OF US-FRENCH-ETHIOPIAN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IN HADAR, ETHIOPIA, TO REFTEL ADVISING OF SECURITY AND OTHER PROBLEMS RELATED TO RESUMPTION OF EXPEDITION THIS FALL. NOW, NOTWITHSTANDING OUR WARNINGS AND REPEATED CABLES ALONG SIMILAR LINES FROM EXPEDITION'S LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE, RICHARD WILDING, JOHANSON HAS WRITTEN FROM PARIS TO ADVISE SIMPLY THAT HE AND ENTIRE TEAM PLAN TO ARRIVE IN ADDIS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20. WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT HIM FROM RESUMING WORK IN HADAR IF HE DECIDES TO DO SO, WE BELIEVE CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY SECURITY, ARE SUCH THIS YEAR AS TO MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT TEAM LEADERS CAREFULLY CONSIDER PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF LAUNCHING A NEW EXPEDITION THIS FALL. IN ADDITION, TEAM APPARENTLY HAS NOT RESOLVED ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICS PROBLEMS NOTED REFTEL.

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND PARIS

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PASS SUBSTANCE OF PARAS. 3 AND 4 BELOW TO B. THOMAS GRAY,
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT, CASE WESTERN RESERVE, CLEVELAND,
OHIO, AND TO D. CARL JOHANSON, C/O MAURICE TAIEB, LABORATOIRE
DE GEOLOGIE, CENTRE NA

JJTZEZU LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE,
1 PLACE AIKSTIDE BRIAND, MAUDON, HAUTES DE SEINE, RESPECTIVELY,
AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN REPLIES FROM EACH.

UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN TEXT: UPON RECEIPT JOHANSON-MALIN LETTER, EMBASSY
HAS AGAIN DISCUSSED SECURITY SITUATION HADAR WITH DR. RICHARD
WILDING, AND ALL BELIEVE IT CLEARLY INADVISABLE FOR YOU TO
PROCEED TO SITE WITH FULL TEAM WITHOUT PRIOR VISIT TO ADDIS
BY JOHANSON, TAIEB, TIERCELIN, AND GRASATO REVIEW SECURITY
SITUATION, LOGISTICS DIFFICULTIES, CLEARANCES, AND OTHER PRO-
BLEMS WITH EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. SECURITY SITUATION HADAR
HAS DETERIORATED AND IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR.
SUGGEST YOU DELAY ALL OTHER DEPARTURES, PENDING YOUR OWN
FIRSTHAND ASSESSMENT.

4. WILDING REQUESTS TRANSFER FUNDS TO COVER POSSIBLE DEPOSIT,
ADDIS EXPENSES,
AND DEBITS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. SUGGEST US
\$5,000; TRANSFER NO MORE AT PRESENT. WILDING STRONGLY REQUESTS
BRING TWO ELT'S, WHICH SHOULD BE MAILED C/O MALIN,
AMERICAN EMBASSY, VIA APO. MOREOVER, IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY
CONTINUATION OF EXPEDITION PROGRAM, ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
ASKED FOR COPY OF FILM COVERING LAST YEAR'S EXPEDITION AND
COPY OF PROGRAM OF 1976 EXPEDITION, AS WELL AS CLARIFICATION
REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS OF ALBERT FISHER AND QSENNIS GOULDEN
AND THE PURPOSE AND SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF THEIR FILM PROJECT.
PLEASE RESPOND URGENTLY, END TEXT.
TIENKEN

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